

Application No.: 08/957,833
Filed: October 27, 1997
Group Art Unit: 2779

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 54-66 as follows:

15 54. (new) A storage medium on which a computer program for
2 generating a mosaic image is stored, the mosaic image to have an
3 appearance that approximates a target image by utilizing a
4 plurality of source images, the computer program being operative
5 to perform a method comprising the steps of:

6 loading the target image into a computer;

7 dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions,
8 each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target
9 image, and

10 for each tile region:

11 dividing the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

12 comparing generally complex source images to the tile
13 region to produce a measurement of visual similarity, said
14 comparing step including comparing each sub-region of the
15 tile region with a corresponding portion of each source
16 image to produce the measurement of visual similarity;

17 selecting the source image with the highest
18 measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile
19 region; and

20 positioning the selected source image in the mosaic
21 image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile
22 region.

1 52 51
1 55. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of

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3 employing source images having one pixel per respective sub-
4 region.

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1 58. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein said comparing
2 step includes the further step of computing a form of a Root-
3 Mean Square error of Red, Green and Blue channels.

54
1 59. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 removing source images selected in said selecting step from
4 consideration such that no one source image appears more than
5 once in the mosaic image.

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1 60. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the steps of
3 capturing source images, and storing the captured source images
4 in a database.

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1 58. (new) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 generating modified source images by cropping the source images
4 captured in said capturing step to square.

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1 59. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of,
3 in the case of a captured source image in landscape format,
4 cropping the captured image from center.

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1 61. (new) The storage medium of claim 60, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of,
3 in the case of a captured source image in portrait format,
4 cropping the captured image from above center.

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1 62. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 categorizing the captured source images within the database.

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1 63. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 storing the captured source images at different levels of
4 resolution.

cont.
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1 64. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 deselecting the source image with the highest measurement of
4 visual similarity if it is determined that the source image has
5 a higher measurement of visual similarity to another tile
6 region.

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1 65. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of
3 specifying at least one source image for inclusion in the mosaic
4 image, the assured source image being positioned in the mosaic
5 image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region
6 having the highest measure of visual similarity therewith.

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1 66. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method
2 performed by the computer program further comprises the step of